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WAR NEWS.

From the morning papers we extract the following items of war intelligence, which may be taken, as usual, *cum grano salis*.

According to a correspondent of the New York Times, Gen. Lee's army is very much scattered. It is said to occupy the country from the line of the Blue Ridge on the west, to Port Royal, on the Rappahannock river below Fredericksburg, on the east. Gen. Ewell is believed to command the left, Gen. A. P. Hill the centre and Gen. Longstreet the right. Gen. Lee, it is said, is collecting a very large army for another invasion, and that he will commence offensive operations at a very early day. It is also believed that Stuart is really making active preparations for another raid.

A dispatch from Washington, last night, says that Lieutenant Burgess, in command of some thirty mounted Rangers, went out in search of White's guerillas, and having found them was attacked and routed. Lieut. Burgess succeeded in making his escape on foot across the river. He subsequently learned that a large number of cavalry had gone down the river. It was also rumored at the Point of Rocks, that a body of Confederates, some five or six thousand strong, with several pieces of artillery, was attempting to cross the river below. It appears that the attempt was successful, as on Tuesday evening there were rumors of a large force of Confederate cavalry at Great Falls, fifteen miles from Washington.

A Federal cavalry expedition to Bottom's Bridge, left Williamsburg on the 26th of August, marching to New Kent Court House, and thence to the Chickahominy river, at Bottom's Bridge. Here the Confederate pickets were discovered, and they retired across the stream, taking up the planks of the bridge after them. Previous to this, however, a brief engagement is said to have ensued, in which the Federals lost one man killed and one wounded. "The object of the expedition being entirely accomplished" the Federals retired.

The Wheeling Intelligencer publishes an account of the late expedition of Gen. Averill into Southwestern Virginia. From this account it appears that the route extended through the counties of Hardy, Pendleton, Highland, Pocahontas and Greenbrier. Much property was destroyed, and the Confederate troops retreated before the Federal advance, until it reached Rocky Gap, near the Warm Springs, where it encountered a heavy Confederate force and fought a severe battle, suffering a loss of one hundred killed and wounded, including several officers. Some Confederates were taken prisoners.

A dispatch from St. Louis says: "General Steele telegraphed Gen. Schofield, from Duvall's Bluff, Arkansas, dated August 26th, that the advance, under General Davidson, has driven Marmaduke's cavalry, about 3,000

strong, out of Brownsville, capturing Colonel Burbridge and some privates. At the last accounts Gen. Glover's brigade was pushing the Confederates towards Bayou Metairie. A despatch from Pilot Knob says that deserters from Burbridge's command report Prices's forces as driven across the Arkansas river on the 29th; that the Confederates were in full retreat, and that Generals Steele and Davidson were in hot pursuit. Marmaduke's command was completely routed and scattered. Little Rock is now within the grasp of the Federal army."

SOME COMMOTION IN THE FRONT.—On Monday night an officer of "Scott's 900" arrived here from Edwards' Ferry, where, we believe, he has been doing picket duty, and brought a report that a body of Stuart's cavalry, represented to be between eight and ten thousand strong, were yesterday actually in the vicinity of Leesburg. The prevalence of this rumor in that quarter, accounts for the burning of a small commissary's depot in that immediate vicinity, said to have been done by those in charge of it about daybreak yesterday morning; the frightened ones performing the feat of running away from that neighborhood immediately afterwards.—[Wash. Star.]

FROM DOWN THE RIVER.—We learn from a vessel just arrived that within the past few days Confederate cavalry have been seen at different points on the Potomac river. Once or twice they have been seen in companies near the old batteries at Shipping, Cock-pit and Mathias' point.

A report of the crossing of the Confederates at Port Conway, on the Rappahannock, is brought by contrabands, who say that the Confederate force crossing, is from ten to fifty thousand.

ILLINOIS.—A letter from Springfield, Illinois, says:—"A battalion of the 16th Illinois Cavalry, who have been arresting deserters in Fayette and adjoining counties, were last night attacked, at Vandalia, by four hundred armed Copperheads, who attempted to release the deserters in their charge. They were led by an officer formerly in the U. S. service. The Copperheads were repulsed with a loss of several killed and wounded. The cavalry force is fully able to protect itself. Accounts from other parts of the State show that the Copperheads are ripe for any movement against the U. S. Government."

A note from Jas. T. Brady, of New York, is published, emphatically declining the candidacy for any office, and refusing to accept any nomination from any political organization.

Twelve soldiers from the army of the Potomac were sent to Washington last night under sentence of court-martial, preparatory to being sent to Fort Delaware. The charge is generally desertion.

Seven citizen prisoners have been sent in from the Army of the Potomac by Brigadier General Patrick, Provost Marshal General, under various charges, the chief being that they were not safe persons to be within the limits of the army. They were all ordered to the Old Capitol.

Gen. Sigel has been assigned to the command of a district in Pennsylvania, with his headquarters at Reading.

FROM UP THE RIVER.—Last evening some of the officers and men of "Scott's 900," who have been doing duty on the line of the canal, near Edward's Ferry, returned to the city. They state that boatmen in the vicinity of the Ferry reported that on Sunday night drums were heard on the river, giving token that the Confederates were near by; and the boatmen also reported that large flat boats were concealed opposite to Muddy Branch, on which the Confederates would probably attempt to cross.

On Monday night, Captain McCallum and Lieuts. Burgess and Dagwell were sent with thirty men to reconnoiter near Leesburg; and when they neared the town, about daybreak yesterday morning, found it occupied by a large number of cavalry, who as soon as they discovered the party, sent a force after them and chased them some distance, but did not succeed in overtaking them. They started down by different routes to the ford over which the reconnoitering party crossed, to intercept it, but Captain McCallum returned by a different route.

In the chase Lieut. Burgess' horse stumbled and fell, and it was feared that he had been captured, but during the morning he returned, having by bye-paths kept out of sight of the cavalry, and crossed at Nolan's Ferry.

The Federal cavalry came down the tow-path to Great Falls, seeing no signs of Confederates on their way.

Advices to-day makes it pretty certain that the cavalry with which they had this adventure were Federals, and if so, it is a pretty good joke on somebody.—[Wash. Star.]

The New York Express says:—"Returns from this State begin to indicate that the highest product of the Conscription here will not be over 2,000 men—probably not so much. Such as are not sick,—and the sickness is terrible,—pay, or produce Irishmen or Germans as substitutes. It is thought there will not be two hundred American born substitutes from the whole State. The product of the conscription is so miserable in the Eastern and Central States,—that it has been, or will be abandoned in the Western States."

The two hundred Germans belonging to the Twentieth New York volunteer regiment, released a few days since from imprisonment by the influence of General Patrick, arrived in Washington yesterday, en route to New York. They all belong to the "Tuners" society, and promised Gen. Patrick that they would return to the service again.

Among the officers just dismissed from the Federal army are First Lieutenant and Quartermaster Benjamin F. Hedges and First Lieutenant Theodore Geyer, 2d Delaware volunteers, for absence without leave. Also Major Martin J. Byrne, 13th Pennsylvania cavalry, for allowing his command to be surprised and captured; for disguising his rank and allowing himself to be paroled as the colonel's orderly, and for desertion.

William T. Duvall, esq., of New Market district, Frederick county, Md., who was taken by the Confederate cavalry under Fitzhugh Lee, in September last, has been exchanged.